Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

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PURPOSES AND PROGRESS

In an effort to assist where "human potential is limited by physical, mental or social conditions, or where scope of research is too new, controversial, or imaginative to encourage traditionally oriented support," the Erickson Educational Foundation has been called upon to function in gender identity areas needing service not otherwise supplied. It has initiated and is achieving progress on a number of projects in this field, including:

1. Establishment of a Central Repository of Information for research and reference.

Current distribution of a medical questionnaire is eliciting statistical data from physicians who have treated persons with gender identity problems.

A library of taped, anonymous interviews with pre- and post-operative transsexuals, and discussions with psychotherapists, has been initiated.

A bibliography of the current literature and reference data on research, medical and legal activities is being assembled.

2. Updating or introduction of accurate definitions and information on transsexualism and transvestism is being provided for new editions of dictionaries and encyclopedias, as well as for placement in subject index listings in professional publications of abstracts.

3. Establishment of a network of concerned physicians throughout the U.S. and Canada, who will be sympathetic to transsexuals and administer tests and treatment where indicated, is under way.

4. Dissemination of information to science writers, researchers and educators; criminologists, jurists as well as medical people, to help correct public misunderstanding.

A LARGE ORDER? YES—

but this is just a part of what we are trying to do. The few Gender Identity Clinics now in existence in leading hospital medical schools (less than half a dozen) are prevented by lack of funds, staff and public cooperation from doing more than token research and, where psychiatrically approved, sex reassignment surgery. Psychotherapeutic help is sometimes needed by the transsexual patient in making an adjustment after undergoing surgery. This is currently being provided at The John Hopkins Hospital, on a limited basis only because of lack of funds.

Family members of transsexuals must be taught to understand the condition and the great need for acceptance and love.

Leaders in the legislative, law enforcement and judicial fields should be impressed with the need to revise attitudes and actions in the protection of the civil rights of transsexuals. Furthermore, state agencies and the public in general may someday realize that conversion operations may convert persons with potential social problems into contributing members of our society.

All this, and more . . .

YOUR COOPERATION IS INVITED—ARE YOU

A Physician? Psychiatrist? Psychologist?

We welcome your request for information concerning participation in the field.

Please indicate if you have patients with gender problems so that we may send you our medical questionnaire.

A Scientist? Educator? Social Scientist?

We hope you will want to open your mind to the many unexplored areas awaiting research, understanding and constructive conclusions. Here is a virtually unlimited field for doctoral or other study, challenging in any aspect. As an EEF-sponsored research psychologist at Johns Hopkins recently said, "It's difficult enough to try to find the answers to questions—but choosing the correct question is perhaps 50% of the research problem."

A public-spirited, concerned citizen?

We hope you will wish to make a financial contribution, deeply appreciated and tax deductible, to help support the research, educational and public relations work of the Foundation, or perhaps to assist transsexual patients who cannot afford costly medical and psychotherapeutic treatment.

LIFE BEGINS AGAIN—

for an instructor at a leading State University. The following is from our growing file of letters from persons grateful for renewed lives:

"I personally know the value of work done to aid the transsexual as I also was a transsexual. Before my operation my life was one of complete unhappiness and despair. However, now life is brimming over with hope and happiness. I have even received my doctorate since my operation.

"If I could be of any assistance to you or any of your groups in the effort to understand the nature of transsexualism, please don't hesitate to call on me.

(Name withheld) Ph.D.
School of Medicine"

TRANSSEXUALISM—SOLE SUBJECT OF MAGAZINE ISSUE

Captioned **Special Issue on Operations for Change of Sex,** the November 1968 issue of **The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease** (The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md. 21202, $2.00) begins with a psychodynamic commentary by the editors.

The eight subsequent significant and important articles by leaders in the field of transsexual research and surgical treatment, emphasize the pressing need for further research and the establishment of additional Gender Identity Clinics with attendant financial and professional support throughout the country.

An important new direction in sex research is indicated by an article on abnormal sexual behavior in captive chimpanzees.

THE PRESSES ARE ROLLING!

TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX REASSIGNMENT
Psychological, Somatic, Treatment and Medicolegal Aspects of the Desire to Change Sex
Edited by Richard Green and John Money (Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md. 21218, Summer (1969).

In recent years the long-forbidden topic of transsexualism has been brought to the surface as an acceptable subject for public speculation and concern. Transsexuals are now understood to be ordinary people who have the misfortune to feel trapped in the body of the opposite sex. Their condition is as old as history.

Far from being "yet another phase of modern decadence," the transsexual condition may be traced from the earliest times, and both a pope and a Roman emperor are to be included in the unfortunate company of transsexuals. The emperor Heliogabalus, for example, is said to have offered half the Roman Empire to the physician who could equip him with female genitalia. Now, however, modern surgery has at last made possible the physical change of sex that transsexuals so passionately desire. How this is done, and how transsexual patients have responded to their new sex roles, is the subject of this fascinating book.

The original papers written for this book, representing the most complete source of current information on transsexualism, are efforts to deal with this problem without emotionalism and to provide a multi-faceted body of scientific information for the researcher and medical practitioner. The text, sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation with a preface by Reed Erickson, brings together thirty contributors from the United States and Europe, representing a variety of disciplines.

Topics discussed include historical and crosscultural aspects of transsexualism; early experiences of the transsexual; adult psychological aspects of transsexualism; endocrine, neurological and skeletal measurement studies; the evaluation of patients for treatment; the technique of surgical reconstruction of male and female genitalia; and post-operative follow-up results. A review of the legal aspects of transsexualism and a glossary of technical terms are also included.

Richard Green is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in Residence and Director of the Gender Identity and Research and Treatment Clinic, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles. John Money is Associate Professor of Medical Psychology and Pediatrics, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and member of the Gender Identity Clinic team there.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Transsexual Phenomenon, by Harry Benjamin, M.D. (Julian Press). Pioneer scientific report on the subject.

Sex Errors of the Body: Dilemmas, Education, and Counseling, by John Money, Ph.D. (The Johns Hopkins Press). Discusses the physical anomalies of sexual development.

Sex and Gender: On the Development of Masculinity and Femininity, by Robert Stoller, M.D. (Science House). Based on 85 psychoanalytical studies at UCLA Gender Identity Clinic.

Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences February, 1967, issue.

Contains the papers presented at the January, 1967, meeting in the Division of Psychology on the subject of transsexualism. Copies of the journal can be obtained by writing the New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York 10021. $1.50.

SCIENCE VS. THE LAW

Society and the law recognize only two sexes and usually the differences are obvious. Now science lists eight criteria for determining the sex of a person: chromosomal, gonadal, internal sex organs, hormonal pattern, external genitalia, habitus, sex of rearing, and gender role and orientation. Obviously, errors of judgment and diagnosis can occur, and medicolegal problems arise.

So far, eleven states have re-issued birth certificates of transsexuals who have undergone reassignment surgery.

LANDMARK OPINION

Judge Francis N. Pecora, N.Y. County Civil Court, recently granted a petition for legal name change to conform with a transsexual's new post-operative identity. He lacked jurisdiction to change the original birth certificate record. Seven judges had previously refused to pass on the petition. A former medical student, Judge Pecora revealed his careful study of the problem in the decision reported in the Sept. 19, 1968, Law Journal, which refers to Dr. Leo Wollman's supportive court testimony.

Judge Pecora suggested that new rules or "progressive legislation" may be needed in the handling of social problems of "non-conformists," whose situation results directly from medical progress in dealing with such difficulties; but to deny immediate relief to the petitioner on the ground that it is unprecedented "would, in effect, sweep the problem under the proverbial rug."

Distinguishing between anatomical sex and psychological sex, Judge Pecora held that in the absence of surgery the sex designation must conform with anatomical sex, despite the mental attitude of the person. However, once surgery conforms anatomical sex to psychological sex, he continued, the transsexual should be afforded the same relief as the pseudo-hermaphrodite.

WE APPLAUD—

every forward step along the path of social, medical and legal progress. The need for further study, research and facilities is enormous. Enlightened legal and legislative consideration of the "non-conformists," condition is essential.

Toward this end, we recommend the article, "Transsexuals—Their Legal Sex" by John P. Holloway, Winter 1968 issue of the University of Colorado Law Review, also to appear in **Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment.**

JOTTINGS FROM JOHNS HOPKINS CLINIC

. . . One of John Money's voluntary "overtime" commitments was a lecture on transsexualism at a January meeting of the Maryland Psychiatric Society.

. . . Fall-appointed coordinator of Gender Identity Clinic activities is a valuable asset to the busy Committee. We appreciate her help, too.

. . . John Brennan, EEF-sponsored research psychologist assisting Dr. Money in on-going research in the Psychohormonal Laboratory, has been participating in seminars and lecturing on transsexualism, stimulating local professional interest in this problem area.

. . . Dr. Anke Ehrhardt is starting work in the spring, under an EEF grant, on a book, **Psychosexual Differentiation.** This book will be an expanded version in English of Dr. Ehrhardt's dissertation submitted for her recently conferred Ph.D. The dissertation, published in German, is based on research work in the Office of Psychohormonal Research at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Ehrhardt is presently completing the German translation of **Sex Errors of the Body,** by John Money, which will be published by Rowohlt in Hamburg.

ALBANY TRUST SCOPE WIDENS

Antony Grey reports that the Albany Trust, originally established to help reform the British homosexual laws, is receiving increasing requests to aid transsexuals (in addition to the other individuals whose sexual and social problems cause them worry or despair).

To sustain current activities and promote counseling and research service, a non-profit organization, Albany Society, Ltd., has been formed and a campaign for £300,000 initiated. A recital by Peter Katin, celebrated pianist, was the first of a series of fund-raising events.

The Trust, with the cooperation of the Erickson Educational Foundation, is endeavoring to arrange an important conference in London, which will be concerned with problems of gender identity and sex change as a part of the Trust program of education and social action to advance public understanding of human sexuality in all its aspects.

Mr. C. H. Rolph, Chairman of the Albany Trust, criminologist and social scientist, was a recent visitor at our New York office and guest of honor at a reception at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. For decades, through the pages of The New Statesman, Mr. Rolph has campaigned for legal and social reforms in the United Kingdom. We are all aware of progress achieved and it is encouraging to observe successes along diversified fronts. Such progress also emphasizes the need for further endeavor to relieve suffering.

ONE, INC., 1969 MIDWINTER INSTITUTE

The 3-day 11th Annual Institute in Los Angeles included a number of activity reports. Richard Green, M.D., delivered a luncheon address, **Transvestism, Transsexualism and Homosexuality.**

A Study of 388 North American Homosexual Males by J. M. Underwood, Research assistant of the EEF-established Institute for the Study of Human Resources, was discussed by a panel including Dr. Green, Richard Parlour, M.D., and sociologist Barry Dank (Long Beach State College).

The Varieties of Homosexual Expression, by Mattachine Society President Harold Call, was illustrated by color slides and movies.

Studies in Personality Characteristics of Several Hundred Homosexual Males, was presented by psychologist Peter Bentler, Ph.D. (UCLA), and discussed by psychiatrist Martha Kirkpatrick, M.D. (UCLA); clinical psychologist Fred Goldstein, Ph.D.; criminologist Howard E. Fradkin, Ph.D. (Long Beach State); sociologist Kenneth Poole (Santa Monica City College), and attorney Herbert Selwyn.

MORALS VS. THE LAW: THE HOMOSEXUALS' PLIGHT"—

was discussed by Robert Veit Sherwin, author of **Sex and the Statutory Law** and a New York attorney noted for his support of law reforms affecting private behavior, at a fall meeting of "ONE in New York," at the office of the Erickson Educational Foundation.

Mr. Sherwin presented a challenging view of the conflict between sometimes archaic law and the demands of today's moral values and social needs, in addition to the homosexual aspect.

WOLLMAN WIDENS ACTIVITIES

Expanding the scope of his work, Dr. Leo Wollman, associate of Dr. Harry Benjamin, conducts a group meeting every six weeks of 12-14 pre- and post-operative transsexuals to discuss their mutual problems. An effort is made to have a leading professional authority in a concerned field participate at each meeting.

Dr. Wollman, delivering one of his frequent medical lectures on transsexualism, recently demonstrated the use of clinical hypnosis in treatment. His radio and TV engagements continue and The Osteopathic Physician will publish an article by him on transsexualism in a forthcoming issue.

Well in advance, Dr. Wollman has already been invited to deliver the significant Joseph L. William Memorial Lecture on transsexualism at the Philadelphia Academy of General Practice, 25th Annual Meeting in November 1969.

GRANTS IN ACTION

While the Erickson Educational Foundation is not large, we endeavor to fund small grants assisting specific projects and to test the viability of certain types of research.

In connection with our concern in the field of gender identity, it has been possible to contribute to the work of Dr. Harold T. Christensen, Professor of Sociology, at Purdue University, in a related project.

Three additional individual research grants in the gender identity field have been approved for funding. More information on this will appear in our next Newsletter.

PREGNANT WOMEN'S DREAMS STUDIED

Dream diaries of 80 pregnant women were collected and contents studied under an EEF summer research grant to Diane Schneider at the William C. Menninger Dream Laboratory, Maimonides Medical Center, New York City, under the direction of Dr. Stanley Krippner, to determine differentiations between these dreams and those of non-pregnant women.

Results are being analyzed and will be reported in a future Newsletter.

CREATIVITY AND GENDER IDENTITY

In a pilot study sponsored by EEF on the interaction of creativity and gender identity, Dr. Charles Bahn, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, telephoned the following comment on the progress of the work so far: "The data indicate that creative activities are constantly labeled feminine, and in our study people with strong feminine identifications like to think of themselves as creative. However, while such individuals are, on an average, somewhat more creative than the general population, there is considerable variability in their scores on a non-verbal test of creativity."

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL RESEARCH

The first International Homeopathic Medical Research Institute has been established through generous grants of donors.

Under the direction of William Gutman, M.D., New York City, the Institute has an Advisory Board of physicians representing fifteen countries. The project, envisaged for many years, is endorsed by all major international groups as well as by the National Homeopathic Medical Association, the oldest medical professional organization in the United States.

The scope of research will be clinical and will include drug research, venturing into new fields, such as the successful trial of desensitization against the effects of air pollution, a project originally sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation.

A paper by Dr. Gutman, **The Prevention and Treatment of the Effects of Air Pollution on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease,** was presented at the 124th Anniversary Meeting of the Bureau of Homeopathic Research, June 1968, and published in the Journal of the American Institute of Homeopathy.

VISUAL IMAGERY RESEARCH PROJECT

"The Experimental Induction of Religious Type Experiences" presented by Jean Houston at Brandeis University in October, was the first paper of a series by Robert E. L. Masters and his wife, Dr. Houston, directors of our Visual Imagery Research Project, reviewing part of the past year's work. It describes the induction of simultaneous mystical-type experiences in groups of college students at the EEF-established New York laboratory, as well as preliminary work with the ASCID (see below).

Dr. Houston also presented a paper to the Psychosynthesis Foundation, discussing the work of the project as it is relevant to their group's psychotherapeutic methods.

Forthcoming Masters-Houston reports will further discuss work with two mind-altering devices developed by the project: the ASCID (Altered States of Consciousness Induction Device) and the Audio-Visual Environment Device. These afford novel methods for inducing altered states and their phenomena, and the reports will make possible similar research work in other laboratories.

According to latest reports, a psychiatrist in Texas who purchased an ASCID, has been using it with appreciable success in his practice.

Future papers will describe the utilization of suggested imagery to induce, deepen and direct trance and trance-like states to facilitate creative and related work.

PROJECT ACHIEVES A FOUNDATION GOAL

One aim of the EEF, to explore the viability of unusual research for further support elsewhere, has been fulfilled. The Visual Imagery Project now will be continued under a two-year research grant to Masters'/Houston's recently formed Foundation for Mind Research from the Kleiner Foundation. John C. Lilly, M.D., author of **The Mind of the Dolphin,** as Director of Psychophysiological Research.

Dr. Lilly has completed his position as Director of Neurological Research at Spring Grove Hospital, near Baltimore. Also, a full-time psychologist will be engaged, and the acquisition of an electroencephalograph and isolation tanks is anticipated.

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Psychiatrist, New York City

Executive Director: Reed Erickson
Baton Rouge Office
4047 Hundred Oaks Avenue
Baton Rouge, La. 70807

Assistant Director and Editor: Zelda R. Suplee
New York Office
41 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4E
New York, N.Y. 10003
(212) 228-6760

Erickson Educational Foundation
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4047 HUNDRED OAKS AVENUE, BATON ROUGE, LA 70807
N. Y. OFFICE: SUITE 4E, 41 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10003

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REV. ALEX SMITH
~~[illegible] ADDAMS BLVD.~~
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. ~~90018~~